

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-49 are pending in this application. Claims 12-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §251. Claims 12, 13, 21-24, 26, 27, 29-31, 39, 41-45, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 4-68862 to Hiromichi. Claims 14-20, 25, 28, 32-38, 40, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hiromichi in view of JP 7-67065 to Fukushima. Claims 1-11, 48, and 49 are allowed.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-11, 48, and 49.

Addressing first the rejection of claims 12-27 under 35 U.S.C. §251, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action a summary of the recapture doctrine is set forth. In response to that position it is respectfully submitted that claims 12-47 do not improperly recapture deliberately canceled claimed subject matter.

With respect to the above-noted rejection, applicants note each of independent claims 12 and 30 is amended by the present response to make clarifications, and to particularly recite features added to the claims in the parent of the present application for allowability of the claims. Thus, applicants submit the recapture doctrine no longer applies as the claims recite features presented in the parent of the present application to obtain patentability.

More particularly, independent claim 12 now additionally recites a “first signal generator configured to generate a first synchronization signal and including a first crystal oscillator” and a “second signal generator configured to generate a second synchronization signal and including a second crystal oscillator”. Independent claim 12 now also further recites that “the first and second crystal oscillators have substantially a same frequency, so that the first and second synchronization signals and the printer engine and the scanner engine are synchronized with each other”. Independent claim 30 is similarly amended.

In the parent application, in an Office Action dated March 18, 1996, certain claims were rejected. In that Office Action claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by U.S. patent 4,691,237 to Shimizu, claims 2-4 were rejected as unpatentable over Shimizu in view of U.S. patent 4,962,430 to Hirochi, and claim 5 was rejected over Shimizu and Hirochi in view of DE 33-37-682 C2 to Siemens.

In response to the noted Office Action a response including amendment to the claims was filed in June 1996.

In the above-noted Office Action the rejections under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, pointed out informalities in the claims, specifically that in claim 1 relations between the first to third I/O means and how the first and second signal generating means operated with respect to other structural elements was unclear.

In response to those 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph rejections, claims 1-5 were amended. Particularly, claim 1 was amended to clarify relations between structural elements. The response also pointed out that claim 1 was clarified, with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection, that the copying system according to the present invention (A) requires only one type of control means since each printer and scanner module has a synchronization signal generation means, and (B) Shimizu fails to teach using first and second crystal oscillators contained within first and second synchronization signal generating means, respectively.

The characteristic (A) had been recited in original claim 1, and thereby applicants submit amendments to claim 1 with respect to the characteristic (A) were only made for clarification to overcome the 35 U.S.C § 112, rejections, and not to narrow the claim scope for traversing the art rejections.

With respect the above-noted characteristic (B), the features noted therein previously submitted with respect to the prior art rejections in the parent application are also now

submitted in new independent claims 12 and 30. Thus, amended independent claims 12 and 30 now include the characteristics added in the parent of the present application with respect to the prior art rejection, and thus the presently submitted amendments to claims 12 and 30 are believed to address any rejection under 35 U.S.C § 251 under the recapture doctrine.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit that claims 12-47 are proper under 35 U.S.C. §251.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 12, 13, 21-24, 26, 27, 29-31, 39, 41-45, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Hiromichi, and the rejection of claims 14-20, 25, 28, 32-38, 40, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 further in view of Fukushima, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

With respect to the above-noted rejections, applicants submit that the presently submitted amendments to claims 12 and 30 address the rejections thereto, and more particularly that the applied art to Hiromichi, in further view of Fukushima does not meet the limitations now clarified in amended independent claims 12 and 30, and thereby the claims dependent therefrom.

In view of these foregoing comments applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 12-47 is also allowable over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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